AN ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTIVITY OF *ELIZABETH HANSON*,

Late of

KACHECKY in NEW-ENGLAND:

Who, with Four of her Children, and Servant-Maid, was taken Captive by the INDIANS, and carried into CANADA.

Setting forth

The various remarkable Occurrences, ſore Trials, and wonderful Deliverances which befel them after their Departure, to the Time of their Redemption.

A NEW EDITION.

Taken in Subſtance from her own Mouth, by

SAMUEL BOWNAS.

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THE

Remarkable Captivity

OF THE

WIFE AND CHILDREN

OF

JOHN HANSON.

ON the 27th of the ſixth month called Auguſt 1725, my huſband and all our men-ſervants being abroad, eleven Indians, armed with tomahawks and guns, who had ſome time before been ſkulking about the fields, and watching an opportunity of our mens abſence, came furiouſly into the houſe. No ſooner were they entered, than they murdered one of my children upon the ſpot; intending, no doubt, by this act of cruelty, to ſtrike the greater degree of terror into the minds of us who ſurvived. After they had thus done, their captain came towards me, with all the appearance of rage and fury it is poſſible to imagine: nevertheleſs, upon my earneſt requeſt for quarter, I prevailed with him to grant it.

I had with me a ſervant-maid and ſix children; but two of my little ones were at that time playing in the orchard. My youngeſt child was but fourteen days old; and myſelf, of conſequence, in a poor weak condition, and very unfit to endure the hardſhips I afterwards met with, as by the ſequel will appear.

The next ſtep they took was to rifle the houſe, which they did with much hurry and precipitation; being apprehenſive, in all probability, of a ſurprize. And as it was late in the afternoon, they packed up what linen, woollen, and other things they liked, and forthwith turned us out of the houſe.

Being now at the door, my two children, who had been playing in the orchard (the one ſix, the other four years of age) came in ſight; and being terrified at the appearance of the naked Indians, they cried aloud. On which one of the Indians ran up to them; and taking one under each arm, brought them to us. My maid prevailed with the biggeſt to be ſtill; but the other would not be pacified by any means, but continued ſhrieking and crying very much. Wherefore, to eaſe themſelves of the noiſe, and prevent the danger of a diſcovery that might ariſe from it, they made no more to do, but knocked out its brains before my face.

I bore this as well as the nature of ſo mournful a circumſtance would permit; not daring to diſcover much of my uneaſineſs, leſt it ſhould provoke them to commit the

like outrage upon the reſt: but could have been glad they had kept out of ſight till we had been gone from the houſe.

The Indians having now killed two of my children, the next thing they did was to ſcalp them; a practice common with them whenever they kill any Engliſh people. This they do by cutting off the ſkin from the crown of the head; which they take with them as an evidence of the number they have ſlain. And it has been currently reported, that the French, in their wars with the Engliſh, have given the Indians a pecuniary reward for every ſcalp they brought to them.

This being done, they prepared to leave the houſe in great haſte, without committing any other violence than taking what they had packed up, together with myſelf and little babe fourteen days old, my little boy of ſix years, one daughter about ſixteen, another about fourteen, and my maid-ſervant.

It was now, as I ſaid before, but fourteen days ſince my lying-in; and being very tender and weakly, and turned out from a warm room, with every thing ſuitable to my circumſtances, it increaſed the ſeverity of the hardſhips I underwent exceedingly. Nevertheleſs, I found the caſe was ſuch, that I muſt either go or die; for I could make no reſiſtance, neither would any pretenſions avail.

Accordingly we began our journey, each having ſome of the plunder to carry, and I my infant: the other three were able to travel

alone. But my new maſter, the Indian captain, was ſometimes humane enough to carry my babe in his arms; which I looked upon as a ſingular favour, becauſe he had beſides a very heavy burthen, and conſiderably more than he could take up without the help of his men.

We paſſed through ſeveral ſwamps and brooks, carefully avoiding all beaten paths, and every track that looked like a road, leſt we ſhould be ſurprized by our footſteps.

We travelled that night, I ſuppoſe, near ten miles in a direct line, and then we halted. The Indians kindled a fire, and we took up our quarters by it. They took it in turn to reſt themſelves, while a party of them kept watch, in order to prevent a ſurprize. For my part, I was very wet, as well as weary; and having no other lodging but the cold ground in the open woods, could get but little reſt. Nevertheleſs, when day-light appeared, we ſet forward again, and travelled very hard all that day, paſſing through ſeveral ſwamps, rivers, and brooks, and ſtill avoiding all beaten paths, for the reaſon already meotioned.

When night came on, I found myſelf again very wet, and heartily tired, having the ſame lodging, the cold ground and open woods.—Thus did we travel for twenty-ſix days ſucceſſively, and in general very hard; though ſometimes we were helped a little by water, over lakes and ponds.—We climbed up abundance of high mouutains; ſome of which were

were ſo ſteep, that I was fain to crawl up them on my hands and knees: but when I was under theſe difficulties, my Indian maſter would, for the moſt part, carry my infant: and this I eſteemed as a favour from the Almighty, in that his heart was ſo tenderly inclined to aſſiſt me. Nay, he would ſometimes take my very blanket; ſo that, having no incumbrance, I was enabled to give ſome aſſiſtance to my little boy, and now-and-then carry him in my arms.

When we came to any difficult place, my maſter would lend me his hand; or if it were ſteep, he frequently uſed to puſh me up before him. In all which he diſcovered more civility and humanity than I could have expected; and for which I was thankful to God, as the moving cauſe.

We had now ſome very great runs of water and brooks to paſs; in wading through which we ſometimes met with great difficulty, being frequently up to our middles, and ſome of the children to their ſhoulders and chins. But the Indians carried my babe (that is, my little boy) through them on their ſhoulders.

At the ſide of one of theſe rivers, the Indians would have had my eldeſt daughter ſing them a ſong. Whereupon a paſſage in the cxxxviith Pſalm was brought to her remembrance; to wit, " By the rivers of Babylon " there we ſat down. Yea, we wept, when " we remembered Zion. We hanged our " harps on the willows in the midſt thereof.

" For they that carried us away captive, re-
" quired of us a ſong; and they that waſted
" us, required of us mirth."

When my poor child had given me this account, it affected me greatly, and my heart was filled with ſorrow. Yet, on her account, I rejoiced that ſhe had ſo good an inclination; which ſhe ſtill further manifeſted, by wiſhing for a Bible, that we might have the comfort of reading the Holy Text at leiſure times, for our ſpiritual conſolation under the afflictions we then ſuffered.

Next to the difficulty of croſſing the rivers, were the prodigious ſwamps and thickets, which were very hard to paſs through. But here alſo my maſter would ſometimes lend me his hand; and as they paſſed thro' quickly one after the other, it became pretty tolerable for the hindmoſt. But the greateſt difficulty of all, and which deſerves firſt to be named, was our want of proper ſuſtenance; for we were now reduced to very great extremity; having often nothing to eat but pieces of old beaver ſkin match-coats, which the Indians, in their journey to our ſettlement, had concealed (for they came to us naked, as I ſaid before) but now in their return, took along with them. They were uſed more for food than raiment, being cut out in long narrow ſtraps, of which they gave us ſome little pieces. Theſe, after their example, we laid upon the fire till the fur was ſinged off, and then ate them as dainty

ty morſels; experimentally knowing, that "to the hungry every bitter thing is ſweet."

Of this diet, mean as it was, we had but a ſcanty allowance. And what ſtill further increaſed my affliction, was the complaints and moans of my poor children. Sometimes indeed the Indians caught a ſquirrel, or a beaver; at others, we met with nuts, berries, and roots: and ſometimes we ate the bark of trees; but had no corn for a long while, till a party of the younger Indians went back, and brought ſome from the Engliſh inhabitants, of which they gave us a very ſhort allowance. But when they killed a beaver, we lived high while it laſted, as their cuſtom was to allow me the guts and garbage for myſelf and children; but they would by no means ſuffer us to waſh and cleanſe them, which occaſioned this kind of diet to be very loathſome; and indeed nothing but pining hunger would have made it in the leaſt degree tolerable.

My diſtreſſes did not all center here. I had yet another affliction no leſs ſevere than the former; and this was it. By daily travel and hard living, my milk was almoſt dried up; and how to preſerve my poor babe's life, was a matter of no little concern to me, having many times no other ſuſtenance for it than cold water, which I took into my mouth, and dropped on my breaſt for it to ſuck in when I gave it the teat, with what little milk it could draw from thence. At other times,

when I could procure any broth of beavers guts, I fed it with that; by which means, and keeping it as warm as I could, its life was preſerved till I came to Canada, where I met with better food.

When we were pretty far advanced in our journey, the Indians divided; and, to our great ſorrow, divided us amongſt them. My eldeſt daughter was taken away firſt, and carried to another part of the country, far diſtant from us. And we had not travelled far, before they parted again, and took from me my ſecond daughter, and my ſervant maid; ſo that I had now only the babe at my breaſt, and my little boy of ſix years old. We three remained with the captain; but my daughter and ſervant underwent very great ſufferings after they were taken from us, travelling very hard for three days together, without any ſuſtenance but cold water; and on the third day the ſervant fell down in a ſwoon as dead; at which the Indians ſeemed ſurprized, and began to ſhew ſome ſigns of tenderneſs; not being willing to loſe any of their captives by death, after they had brought them ſo near their own home; hoping, no doubt, in caſe they lived, to obtain a conſiderable price for their ranſom. Accordingly, in a few days after this, they drew near their journey's end, where they found greater plenty of corn and other food; but fleſh often fell very ſhort, as they had no other way of procuring it but hunting.

It

It was not long before my daughter and ſervant were parted alſo; and my daughter's maſter falling ſick, he was thereby diſabled from hunting. All their corn was likewiſe ſpent; and ſo great were their diſtreſſes, that they were compelled to feed on the bark of trees for a whole week, being almoſt famiſhed to death.

In this ſore extremity it was providentially ordered, that ſome other Indians, hearing of their miſery, came to viſit them (for they are very kind and helpful one to another) and brought with them the guts and liver of a beaver; which, as they were but four in number (viz. the Indian, and his wife, and daughter, and my daughter) afforded them a good repaſt.

By this time my maſter and our company got to their journey's end: where we met with better entertainment, having corn, veniſon, wild fowl, and whatever elſe the Indians took in hunting. But my maſter's family being fifteen in number, it ſometimes occaſioned us to have very ſhort commons, eſpecially when game was ſcarce.

Our lodging was ſtill on the cold ground, in a poor little wigwam, which is a kind of ſmall ſhelter, made with rinds of trees and mats for its covering, after the manner of a tent. Theſe are ſo eaſily ſet up and taken down, that they often remove them from place to place. Our ſhoes, ſtockings, and other clothes being worn out in this long journey

through buſhes and ſwamps, and the ſeaſon coming on very ſharp and cold, we were poorly defended from the injuries of the weather, which now grew ſo ſevere, that one of my own feet, one of my babe's, and both my little boy's, were frozen with cold But although this brought no ſmall exerciſe upon me, yet through mercy we all did well.

Notwithſtanding we were now come to the end of our journey, the Indians abode not long in one place; but often removed from one ſpot to another, carrying their wigwams, which were not a little troubleſome, whitherſoever they went.—Theſe frequent removals were made for the ſake of hunting, but were attended with great inconveniences, by reaſon of the dampneſs of the ground whereon the wigwams were pitched; which rendered our lodging much more unpleaſant and unwholeſome, than if we had continued in one place.

At length we arrived at the Indian fort, where many of the people came to viſit my maſter and his family, and congratulate him on his ſafe return, and the ſucceſs of his expedition. Publick rejoicings were made upon it (which in their way perhaps were a kind of thankſgiving;) and theſe were attended with dancing, firing of guns, beating on hollow trees inſtead of drums, ſhouting, drinking, and feaſting for ſeveral days together with much exceſs.

But while the Indians were in their mirth and jollity, my mind was earneſtly exerciſed towards

towards the Lord, that I, with my dear children, who were now ſeparated from me, might be preſerved from repining againſt God under our preſent affliction. But that, on the other hand, we might have our dependance upon him, who rules in the hearts of men, and can do what he pleaſes in the kingdoms of the earth; knowing that his care is over thoſe who put their truſt in him.—But I found it very difficult to keep my mind under that patient reſignation, ſo neceſſary to be found in ſuch ſore trials and afflictions as then fell to my lot: being under various fears and doubts concerning my daughters, who were ſeparated from me, which greatly increaſed my troubles: ſo that I can ſay my afflictions were not to be ſet forth by words to the full extent of them.

We had not long been arrived, before my maſter went abroad to hunt for proviſions for the family, and was abſent about a week. Before he ſet out, he ordered me to procure wood, and gather nuts: in doing which I was very diligent during the time of his abſence, cutting the wood, and putting it up in order. But no ſooner was he returned, than I quickly perceived he was very much diſpleaſed; for he had met with no ſucceſs in his hunting expedition: and ſo ſtrongly did his diſappointment work upon him, that he began to revenge it on us his captives. He allowed me, however, a little boiled corn for myſelf and child; but looking upon us with a very angry

angry countenance, he threw a ſtick at me with ſo much violence, as plainly demonſtrated that he grudged us the food we had received from him.

Hereupon his ſquaw and daughter broke forth in a violent fit of crying; which occaſioned me to fear that ſome miſchief was intended againſt us; and in conſequence of this I inſtantly withdrew from his preſence into another wigwam. He ſoon followed me; and in great fury tore my blanket from my back; then taking my little boy from me, he knocked him down as he went along before him. But the poor child, not being hurt, but only frighted with the fall, ſtarted up, and ran away without crying.

My maſter then left us; but his wife's mother came and ſat down by me, telling me I muſt ſleep there that night. After this ſhe went out for a while, and then returned with a ſmall ſkin to cover my feet; giving me to underſtand withal, that my maſter was now determined to kill us.

I was very deſirous to know the cauſe of this determination;; urging to her that I had been very diligent, during his abſence, to do as he had ordered me: and in the beſt manner I was able endeavoured to make her ſenſible how unreaſonable he was; although we had no other means of making ourſelves intelligible to each other, but by ſigns. She ſtill continued to make ſigns to me that I muſt die; adviſing me (by pointing upwards) to pray

pray to God; and endeavouring, by other ſigns, and tears intermixed, to inſtruct me in that which was moſt needful, to prepare for death, which now appeared to be nigh at hand from my bloody maſter, who had conceived evil againſt me without any juſt cauſe; but his ill ſucceſs in hunting, and the ſcarcity of proviſions, had made him quite outrageous.

The poor old ſquaw, his mother-in-law, was very kind and tender to me; and all that night would not leave me; but came and laid herſelf down at my feet, ſignifying her intention to uſe her endeavours to appeaſe his wrath.—For my own part, I got but little reſt that night; though my babe ſlept ſweetly by my ſide: but I dreaded the tragical deſign of my maſter, and looked every hour when he would enter the wigwam to execute his bloody purpoſe.—But here again kind providence interpoſed. For being weary with hunting, and having toiled in the woods without ſucceſs, he went to reſt, and forgot to put in practice the horrid purpoſe he had formed.

The morning being come, he went forth again to hunt. I dreaded his return empty-handed; and prayed in my heart that he might take ſomething to ſatisfy his hunger, and quell his ill humour. And before he had been long gone, he returned with booty; having ſhot ſome wild ducks. He now appeared in a better temper, and ordered the fowls to be dreſſed ſpeedily. For theſe Indians, whenever

ever they are in poſſeſſion of plenty, ſpend it as freely as they take it: often conſuming in the ſpace of two days, through gluttony and drunkenneſs, as much as, with prudent management, might ſerve a week. And thus they live, for the moſt part, either in riot or exceſs; or undergo very great hardſhips for want of neceſſaries.

As this was a time of plenty, I felt the comfort of it, together with the reſt of the family; having a part ſent to me and my children; which was very acceptable.—I was now ready to think the bitterneſs of death was paſt for this time, and my ſpirit grew a little eaſier; yet this laſted not long before my maſter threatened my life again. But of this I took notice, that whenever this ill temper predominated, he was always pinched with hunger; and that when ſucceſs attended his hunting, he was much better humoured; though indeed he was naturally hot and paſſionate, and often threw ſticks and ſtones at me, or whatever elſe lay in his way, by reaſon whereof my life was continually in danger; but that God, whoſe providence is over all his works, ſo preſerved me, that I never received any great damage from this Indian; for which mercy I ever deſire to be thankful to my Creator.

When fleſh was ſcarce, we were only allowed the guts and garbage; but were not permitted to cleanſe them any other way, than juſt by emptying the dung out of them, and after-

afterwards boiling them together with the broth of fowls; which would have been extremely nauſeous, had not hunger compelled us to eat; but, in time, this kind of food, which often fell to our lot, became pretty tolerable to a keen appetite; though at another time I could by no means have diſpenſed with it. And this led me to conſider that none are able to ſay what hardſhips they can ſuffer, till the trial comes upon them. For that which in time paſt I had thought not fit for food in my own family, I ſhould now have eſteemed a ſweet morſel, and a dainty diſh.

By this time I was reduced ſo low, through fatigue of ſpirits, hard labour, mean diet, and the frequent want of natural reſt, that my milk was intirely dried up again, and my helpleſs babe very poor and weak, appearing to be little more than ſkin and bones; for I could perceive every joint of it, from one end of its back to the other; and how to procure any thing that might ſuit its weak appetite, I was at a very great loſs. Whereupon one of the Indian ſquaws, perceiving my uneaſineſs, began ſome diſcourſe with me, and withal adviſed me to take the kernels of walnuts, and after I had cleanſed them, to beat them up with a little water; which accordingly I did, and the water looked like milk. Then ſhe bid me add to this water a little of the fineſt Indian corn meal, and juſt boil it up together. I did ſo; and found it very palatable,

palatable, and ſoon perceived that it nourriſhed my babe, for it quickly began to thrive and look well; which gave me great comfort.—I afterwards underſtood, that with this kind of diet the Indian children were often fed.

But the c nfort I received on my dear child's recovery from the brink of death, was ſoon mixed with bitterneſs and trouble. For my maſter, obſerving its thriving condition, uſed often to look upon it, and ſay, that when it was fat enough, he would have it killed and eaten. Purſuant to this threat, he obliged me to fetch a ſtick, which he ſaid he had prepared to roaſt my babe upon. And as ſoon as I had brought it, he made me ſit down by him, and undreſs the infant. The child now being naked, he began to feel its arms, legs, and thighs; and having paſſed this examination upon it, he informed me, that as it was not yet fat enou h, I muſt dreſs it again till it was in better caſe.—But notwithſtanding he thus acted, I could not perſuade myſelf he was in earneſt, but that he did it with a view to afflict and aggravate me: neither could I think but that our lives would be preſerved from his barbarous hands, by the over-ruling power of Him, in whoſe Providence I put my truſt both night nd day.

A little while after this my maſter fell ſick; and during his illneſs, as he lay in his wigwam, he ordered his own ſon to beat mine. But the old ſquaw, the Indian boy's grandmother,

mother, would not ſuffer him to do it. Whereupon the father was ſo much provoked, that he ſeized hold on a ſtick, very ſharp at one end, and threw it at my little boy with ſuch violence, that it ſtruck him ſo ſevere a blow on the breaſt, as made his countenance change as pale as death through pain. I intreated him not to cry; and though he was but ſix years old, and his breaſt very much bruiſed, he bore it with wonderful patience, not ſo much as once complaining. So that the patience of the child reſtrained his barbarity; which it is hardly to be doubted would have tranſported him further in his reſentment had he cried: for complaining always aggravated his paſſion greatly, and his anger grew hotter upon it.

A ſhort time after, on the ſame day, he got upon his feet; but was much out of order. But notwithſtanding he was ſick, his wife and daughter let me know that he ſtill purpoſed to kill us; which made me now very fearful, unleſs Providence interpoſed, in what manner it would end. I therefore laid down my child, and going out of his preſence, went to cut wood for the fire, as I uſed to do, hoping this would in part abate his paſſion; but I ſtill feared, that before I returned to the wigwam my two children would be killed.

In this ſituation I had no way left, but to caſt my care upon God, who had hitherto helped and protected me and mine.—But while my maſter remained in this feud, the old

old ſquaw (his mother-in-law) left him; but my miſtreſs and her daughter ſtill remained with him in the wigwam.

As ſoon as I returned with my wood, the daughter came to me. I aſked her if her father had killed my children? She anſwered me by a ſign that he had not; and ſeemed to be pleaſed that he had forborn it. For inſtead of venting his fury on me and mine, the Lord, in whom I had put my truſt, interpoſed in the needful time, and mercifully delivered us from the cruel purpoſe he had threatened to put in execution. Nor was he himſelf without ſome ſenſe of the ſame, and that the hand of God was concerned therein, as he afterwards confeſſed to thoſe who were about him. For a little time after he had got upon his feet he was ſtruck with violent pains, and ſuch a grievous ſickneſs, that he uttered his complaints in a very doleful and hideous manner; which when I underſtood (not having yet ſeen him) I went to another ſquaw, who was come to viſit him, and could ſpeak Engliſh, and aſked her if my miſtreſs (for ſo I uſed to call the Indian's wife) thought my maſter would die? She anſwered it was very likely he would; for he grew worſe and worſe. I then told her he had ſtruck my little boy a dreadful blow, without any provocation; and had threatened in his fury to kill us all. The ſquaw confeſſed that the abuſe he had offered to my child, and the miſchief he had done him, was the cauſe why God afflicted

afflicted him with that ſickneſs and pain; and told me that he had promiſed never to abuſe us in ſuch ſort again.

After this he recovered: but I do not remember, that from thenceforward he either ſtruck me or my children ſo as to hurt us, or with that miſchievous intent as he before uſed to do; nor was he ſo paſſionate afterwards as he had been accuſtomed to be. All which I looked upon as the Lord's doing, and marvellous it was in my eyes.

A few weeks after this, my maſter made another remove; which was the largeſt he had ever made, being two days journey, and moſtly over the ice. The firſt day the ice was bare; but ſome ſnow falling on the ſecond, it made it very difficult to travel over. I received much hurt by frequent falls: having, beſides, the care of my infant, which increaſed my trouble not a little. It was night when we arrived at our camp; and I was ordered to go and fetch water; but having ſat a while on the cold ground, I could neither ſtand nor go, by reaſon that my limbs were ſo benummed with cold: yet I dared not refuſe; and therefore attempted it by crawling on my hands and knees; but a young Indian ſquaw belonging to another family being come to ſee our people, ſhe in compaſſion took the kettle, and knowing where to go, which I did not, fetched the water for me; which I took as a great favour,

in that her heart was inclined to do me this ſervice.

I now ſaw the deſign of this journey. My maſter, as I ſuppoſe, being weary of keeping us, was willing to make what ranſom he could of us; and therefore went further towards the French ſettlements, leaving his family at this place; where they had a great dance, ſeveral other Indians coming to our people. This held ſome time; and while they were employed in it, I got out of the way as far as I could into a corner of the wigwam; but every time they came by me in their dancing, they would bow my head towards the ground, and frequently kick me with great fury. Divers of them were barefooted, and the reſt had only mockſans on. The dance laſted ſome time; and they made, in their manner, great rejoicing and noiſe.

It was not many days before my maſter returned from the French; but in ſuch an ill humour, that he would not ſuffer me to abide in his preſence. I had a little ſhelter made with boughs, having firſt digged through the ſnow, which was then pretty deep, quite to the ground. In this hole I and my poor children were put to lodge; and as the weather was then very ſharp, and the froſts hard (it being then the month called January) our lodging was extremely bad. But our ſtay was not long in this wretched place, before my maſter took me and my children to the French, in order to get a chapman for

for us. When we came among them, I was expoſed to ſale, and the price my maſter put upon me was 800 livres. But nobody appearing diſpoſed to comply with his demands, and a Frenchman offering no more than 600 livres, it threw him into ſuch a rage, that he ſaid in his paſſion, if he could not have his price, he would burn me and the babe in the view of the city of Port-Royal. The Frenchman bade him make the fire; and added, "I will help you, if you think that will do "you more good than 600 livres;" calling him fool, and roughly bidding him begone: but at the ſame time he was very civil to me; and for my encouragement bade me be of good cheer, for I ſhould be redeemed, and not go back with the Indian again. I was obliged, however, to retire with my maſter that night; but the next morning I was redeemed for 600 livres.

In driving the bargain with my maſter, the Frenchman aſked him why he demanded ſo much for the little babe's ranſom? urging, that when it came to have its belly full it would die. The Indian ſaid, No; it would not die, having already lived twenty-ſix days on nothing but water; and that he believed it was a devil. The Frenchman ſaid, No; but the child is ordered for a longer life; and it hath pleaſed God to preſerve it to admiration. My maſter anſwered, No, that was not the caſe, but it was a devil; and he believed

lieved it would not die, unleſs they took a hatchet, and knocked out its brains.

This ended their diſcourſe; and I was redeemed as aforeſaid, with my little babe for 600 livres. My little boy was likewiſe redeemed for an additional ſum. And by this means we exchanged our lodging and diet much for the better, the French being kind and civil to me beyond what I could expect or deſire.

The day after I was redeemed, a Romiſh prieſt took my babe from me; and according to their cuſtom they baptized it; urging, that if it died before, it would be damned; and accordingly they gave it the name of Mary Ann Troſſways; telling it, that if it died then, it would be ſaved, being baptized. And my landlord alſo, ſpeaking to the prieſt who performed the ceremony, ſaid, it would be well if Troſſways were to die then, being in a ſtate of ſalvation. But the prieſt replied, that the child having been miraculouſly preſerved through ſo many hardſhips, it might be deſigned for ſome great work, and, by its life being continued, might glorify God much more than if it were to die then. A very ſeaſonable remark, and I wiſh it may prove true.

I had then been about five months among the Indians, and one month with the French. when my dear huſband, to my unſpeakable joy and comfort, came to me. He was much concerned for the redemption of his chil-

children; two of our daughters, and the ſervant-maid, being ſtill in the hands of the Indians; and only myſelf and the two little ones redeemed.

Accordingly, after much difficulty and trouble, he recovered our younger daughter and the maid; but we could by no means obtain our eldeſt from them. For the ſquaw to whom ſhe was given had a ſon, and ſhe intended a match between my daughter and him, hoping in time to prevail upon her to comply; for the Indians are ſeldom guilty of any indecent carriage towards their captive women, unleſs much overtaken in liquor. The affection they had for my daughter made them refuſe all offers and terms of ranſom. So that after my huſband had waited, and uſed his utmoſt endeavours to obtain our child, we were at laſt obliged to depart homewards, and leave our daughter, to our great grief, amongſt the Indians.

We accordingly ſet forward over the lake, with three of our children and ſervant, in company with ſundry others; and, by the kindneſs of Providence, got well home on the 1ſt of the ſeventh month, called September, in the year 1725. From which it appears, that I had been from home amongſt the Indians and French, and on my journey twelve months and twenty-ſix days. In which ſeries of time, the many deliverances and wonderful providences of God to us, have been, and I hope will remain to be, a con-

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tinued obligation ever to live in fear, love, and obedience to God Almighty; hoping, by the assistance of his grace, with meekness and wisdom, to approve myself in holiness of life, and godliness of conversation, to the praise of him who has called me; who is God, blessed for ever!

But my dear husband could not enjoy himself with satisfaction, because of the absence of our dear daughter Sarah, who, as I said before, was left behind; for which reason, not being willing to omit any thing which lay in his power for procuring her redemption, he concluded to make a second attempt. In order to this, he began his journey about the 19th of the second month, 1727, in company with a kinsman and his wife, who went to redeem some of their children, and were successful enough to obtain their desire; but my dear husband was taken sick by the way, and grew worse and worse. And as he was very sensible he should not get over it, he told my kinsman, that if it were the Lord's will he should die in the wilderness, he was freely given up to it. And at length, under a good composure of mind, and sensible to his last moments, he died, as near as they could guess, at the distance of about half-way between Albany and Canada, in my kinsman's arms; and is, I doubt not, at rest in the Lord. And although mine and my childrens loss is very great, yet his gain I hope is much greater. I therefore desire and pray, that

that the Lord will enable me patiently to ſubmit to his will in all things; earneſtly beſeeching the God and Father of all our mercies, to be a Father to my fatherleſs children, and give them that bleſſing which makes truly rich, and adds no ſorrow with it; and that as they grow in years, they may grow in grace, and experience the joy of his ſalvation, which is come by Jeſus Chriſt, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

After the death of my dear huſband, my kinſman proceeded on his journey; and when he arrived at Canada, he uſed all poſſible means to obtain my daughter's freedom, but all his endeavours proved ineffectual, ſhe being ſtill in the hands of the ſame old ſquaw, who deſigned at any rate to oblige my daughter to marry her ſon, and for that reaſon utterly rejected any propoſal for her redemption. But herein ſhe miſſed of her aim; for whilſt ſhe was endeavouring to bring my daughter to conſent, a Frenchman, who had taken a great liking to her, interpoſed. He ſpared no pains by perſuaſion to gain her conſent; ſetting before her the immediate privilege ſhe would obtain by becoming his wife, to wit, her freedom from captivity among the Indians; for in ſuch a caſe, it ſeems, they have no pretence to detain their captives any longer after marrying a Frenchman; but the woman then becomes the ſole property of her huſband. Theſe remonſtrances and perſuaſions, added to the impro-

improbability of her being redeemed from the Indians by any other means, at laſt prevailed; and accordingly ſhe was married to the Frenchman, and ſettled amongſt that people.

Thus, as well as I was able by the help of memory (not having been in a condition to keep a journal) I have given a ſhort but true account of ſome of the remarkable trials, and wonderful deliverances that have befallen me and mine; which I never intended to publiſh, but that I hoped the merciful kindneſs and goodneſs of God might thereby be manifeſted; and the reader ſtirred up with more care and fear to righteouſneſs and humility; and then will my purpoſe be anſwered.

N. B. The ſubſtance of the foregoing account was taken from her own mouth by Samuel Bownas. And in the ſeventh month, called September, 1741, Samuel Hopwood was with her, and received the relation much to the ſame purpoſe; at which time he ſaw the child (then grown a young woman) who was ſucking at her breaſt when ſhe was carried into captivity.

FINIS.